Remarks

Responsive to the Office Action mailed 19 February 2009 ("instant Office Action"), Applicants provide the following remarks. As stated above, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

As of the instant Office Action, claims 2 and 8-10 were pending in the subject application, all of which were independent claims. As of this response, claims 2 and 8-10 have been amended in part to clarify / emphasize that the animations of the page associated material within a side bar may create a visual effect of entering and leaving an area without resizing the side bar. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification of the subject application at least at FIGS. 17 – 20, as published. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 2 and 8-10 were rejected on the basis of obviousness-type double patenting. As a terminal disclaimer was filed on 21 April 2008, Applicants respectfully submit that no further action is necessary at this time in regard to the instant rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C §102

Concerning the instant Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Ludolph et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,053; hereinafter "Ludolph").

Applicants claim (in currently amended claim 2):

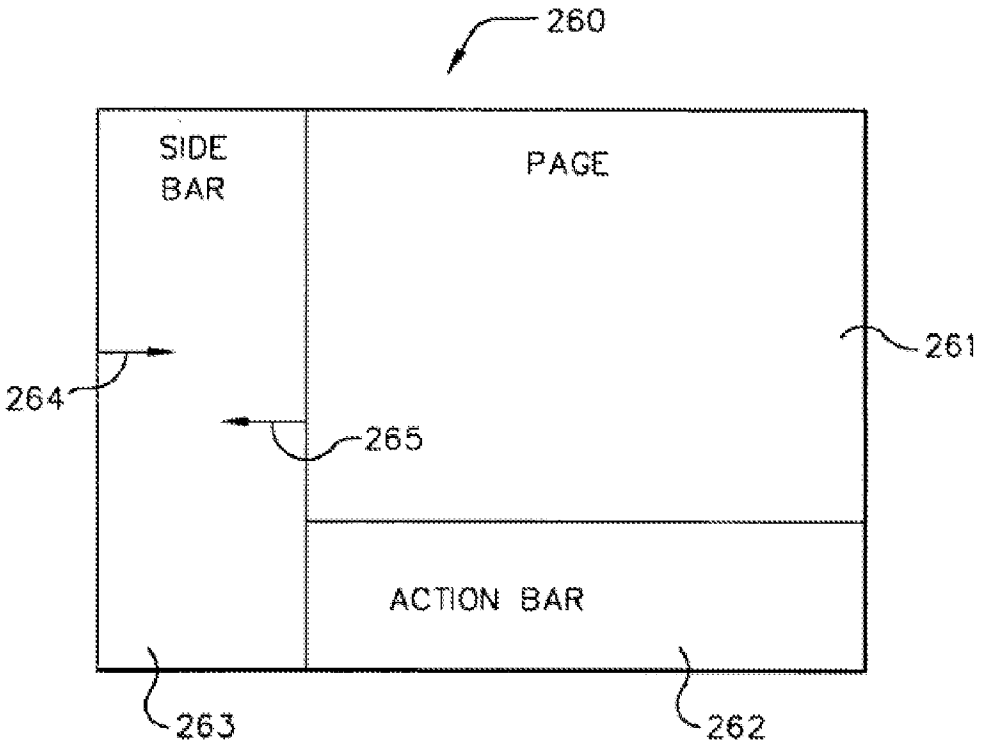
> 2. (currently amended) A method for selectively displaying a plurality of rooms with side bar slide animation, comprising the steps of:
>
> displaying content material in a page of said room;
>
> displaying page associated material in a side bar of said room;
>
> responsive to entering a room, executing a first animation of said page associated material such that said page associated material slides into said side bar from a first direction, without resizing said side bar; and
>
> responsive to leaving said room, executing a second animation of said page associated material such that said page associated material slides from said side bar in a direction different from said first direction, without resizing said side bar;

thereby creating a visual effect of entering and leaving an area represented by a panel wherein the visual effect creates a visual impression of entering and leaving said area via one or more of a horizontal and vertical sliding motion;

wherein said first animation and said second animation are elements of an aesthetic set inherited from a parent room. (Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that Ludolph fails to disclose, or even suggest, a method for "executing a first animation of said page associated material such that said page associated material slides into said side bar from a first direction, without resizing said side bar" and "executing a second animation of said page associated material such that said page associated material slides from said side bar in a direction different from said first direction, without resizing said side bar", as claimed by Applicants' amended claim 2.

Concerning the nature of executing animations of page associated material such that the page associated material slides into or out of a side bar without resizing the side bar, the subject application at least discloses, for example in FIGS. 17-20:



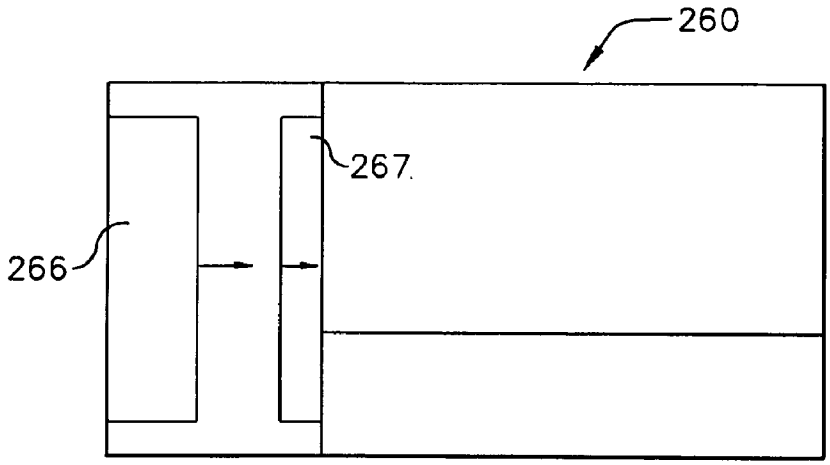


FIG. 18

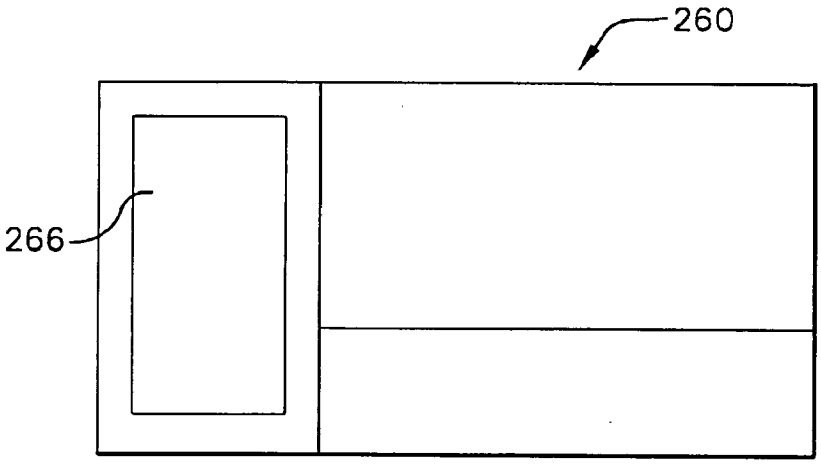


FIG.19

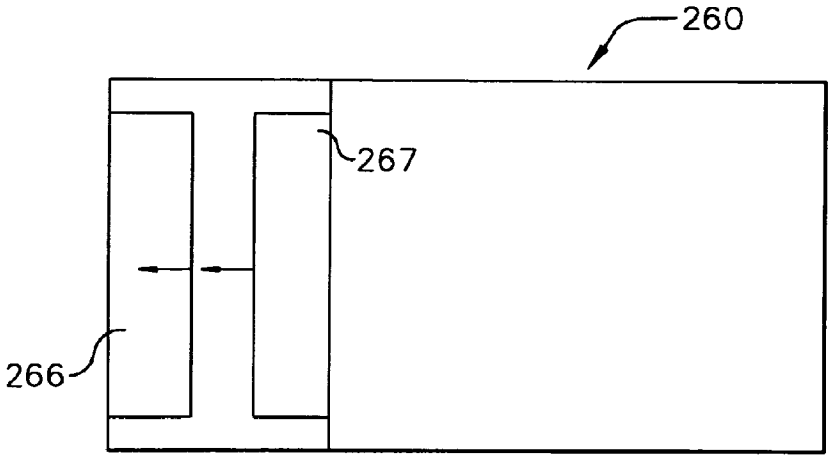


FIG. 20

As can be clearly discerned from FIG.S 17 – 20, the material (i.e., the "page associated material") in the side bar (e.g., side bar 263) slides (e.g., in the right or left direction in the illustrated example of the drawings), but does so without resizing the side bar. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application discloses and claims a method wherein animations of page associated material may be executed such that the page associated material slides into or out of a side bar without resizing the side bar. Applicants respectfully assert that Ludolph fails to disclose, or even suggest, such a method.

In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that Ludolph does not even contemplate such functionality. With regard to Applicants' previous assertions that Ludolph fails to teach or suggest the sliding animation, the Examiner, on Pages 10-11 of the instant Office Action states:

> Applicant (*sic*, Applicants) has (*sic*, have) argued that Ludolf (*sic*, Ludolph) does not teach or suggest the sliding animation, creates (*sic*, creating) a visual effect of entering or leaving an area. However, Applicant's (*sic*, Applicants') attention is directed to the cited potion (column 9, lines 53-67) "Once the expanding size is determined in step 610, the system begins the process of redrawing the window panel frame to the new size starting with step 620. When the user moves the pointer to a new expandable panel, there are several ways the panel can expand and the content within the panel be repositioned. … the redrawing of the panel frame is done through a successive series of steps called transitional animation."

Accordingly, and as emphasized by the Examiner, the "transitional animation" of Ludolph pertains to the "redrawing [of] the window panel frame to the new size…". (Ludolph, Col. 9, ll. 55-56; emphasis added). That is, the window panel frame (e.g., the side bar) is resized to display the information in the window panel frame (e.g., the "page associated material") in such a way that a user may view it in its entirety. As one of skill in the art will appreciate, Ludolph's resizing (e.g., expanding / contracting) of window panel frames (e.g., side bars) is clearly unrelated to the claimed functionality of executing animations of page associated material such that the page associated material slides into or out of a side bar without resizing the side bar.

To further elucidate Ludolph's concept of "transitional animation" as involving the resizing (e.g., expanding / contracting) of a side bar, Applicants herein reproduce Col. 10, lines 18-30 of Ludolph:

> Thus, the operation loop is as follows: 1) the panel frame is increased a small amount in a short time; 2) if the panel content needs to be repositioned because of the small increase in panel size the system determines what the new position should be and redraws the content; 3) the system then checks if the expansion size has been reached; 4) if it has, the operation is complete; and 5) if not the frame is incremented and redrawn again. This is done until the window panel reaches its new size.

> By performing this loop rapidly, the window panel expansion has the visually appealing effect of being "rolled out" such that the user can see increasing portions of the content as the panel is expanding. (Emphasis added).

Perhaps even more illuminating is Ludolph's first statement regarding the summary of its invention:

> Accordingly, the present invention provides a method and apparatus for automatically expanding and contracting the size of a window panel as needed without having to contract and expand other window panels in the vicinity, and is visually appealing and non-distracting in the manner the panel expands and contracts. (Ludolph, Col. 2, ll. 53-58; emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the system of Ludolph resizes (e.g., expands / contracts) a side bar, rather than executing a sliding animation of the content within a side bar (i.e., the "page associated material"). Moreover, and pursuant to the above-cited passage, Applicants understand the visual effect disclosed by Ludolph to be for the purpose of providing a "visually appealing and non-distracting..." expansion and contraction of a window panel, not to "creat[e] a visual impression of entering and leaving [an] area", as claimed by Applicants' claim 2.

Significantly, it appears that the Examiner fails to appreciate that it is the content that is being introduced into (or being removed from) the side bar (i.e., the "page associated material") that the sliding animation pertains to, as opposed to the side bar itself. For example, on Page 10 of the instant Office Action, the Examiner states:

> Ludolph teaches the steps of expanding and contracting which is similar to the steps of sliding said page in a first direction and in a different direction from the first direction as claimed. (Emphasis added).

Applicants have emphasized the Examiner's recitation of "said page", because that language indicates that the Examiner interprets the claimed functionality to require a sliding animation of the page (i.e., the side bar), rather than a sliding animation of the content within the page (i.e., the "page associated material"). As discussed in detail above, Applicants' claimed functionality pertains to the sliding animation of page associated material, and to clarify / emphasize this aspect, Applicants have amended the claim(s) to require such animation without resizing of a side bar.

As discussed above, this distinction becomes painfully evident in view of FIG.S 18-20 of the subject application:

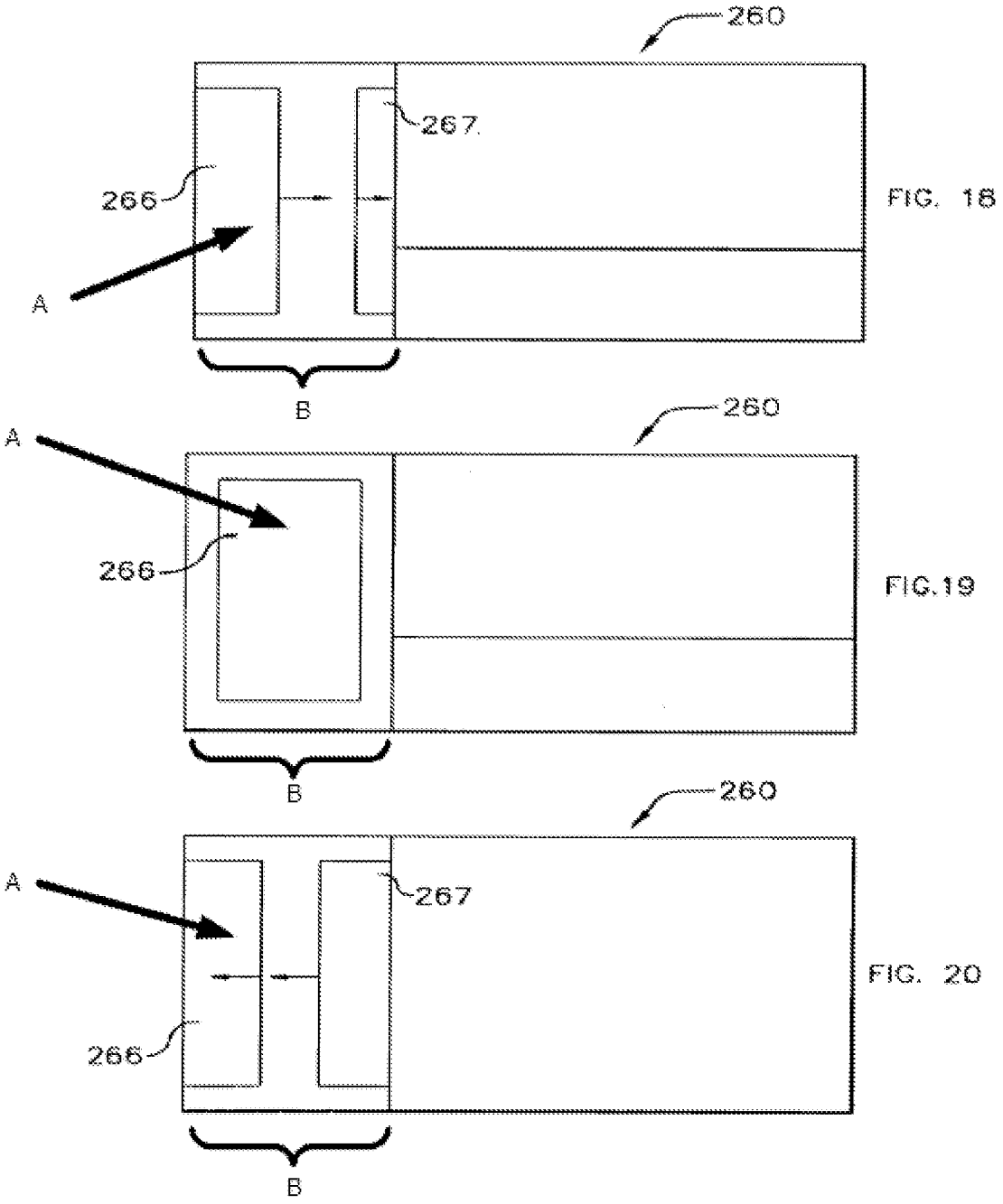


FIG. 18

FIG.19

FIG. 20

For explanatory purposes, Applicants have reproduced FIG.S 18-20 with Page Associated Material arrows A and Side Bar brackets B. Page Associated Material arrows A have been added to the above-reproduced figures to further illustrate the existence / location of the claimed page associated material, including the exemplary sliding animation of such. Similarly, Side Bar brackets B have been added to the above-reproduced figures to demonstrate that the side bar of

the subject application may not be resized as a consequence of executing the claimed sliding animation (i.e., the size of each of Side Bar brackets B may remain constant). The addition of arrows A and brackets B are included in the above-reproduced figures merely to emphasize items discussed in the instant response.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Ludolph is not understood to teach the claimed functionality of "executing a first animation of said page associated material such that said page associated material slides into said side bar from a first direction, without resizing said side bar" and "executing a second animation of said page associated material such that said page associated material slides from said side bar in a direction different from said first direction, without resizing said side bar", as claimed by Applicants' amended claim 2. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that Ludolph is not a proper basis for a 35 USC §102(e) rejection, as the reference fails to disclose, or even suggest, each and every element of Applicants' claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 2 is patentable over Ludolph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 is respectfully requested in view of the above-discussed deficiencies of Ludolph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103

Additionally, claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludolph.

Applicants claim (in currently amended claim 8):

> 8. (currently amended) A method for displaying rooms from a hierarchy of rooms, each room including a page display and a corresponding side bar display, comprising:
>
> removing side bar material corresponding to a first page display from said side bar by a first slide animation in a first direction when leaving a first room in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar, and inserting side bar material corresponding to a second page display into said side bar in said first direction by slide animation when entering a second room higher in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar; and
>
> removing side bar material corresponding to said first page display from said side bar by a second slide animation in a second direction when leaving said first room in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar, and inserting side bar material corresponding to a third page display into said side bar by slide animation in said second direction when entering a third room lower in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar; and

thereby providing in said side bar a visual effect of respectively moving up or down said hierarchy of rooms wherein the visual effect creates a visual impression of entering and leaving said area via a vertical sliding motion;

wherein said first slide animation and said second slide animation are elements of an aesthetic set inherited from a parent room. (Emphasis added).

Applicants claim (in currently amended claim 9):

9. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform operations for displaying rooms from a hierarchy of rooms, each room including a page display and a corresponding side bar display, said operations comprising:

removing side bar material corresponding to a first page display from said side bar by a first slide animation in a first direction when leaving a first room in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar, and inserting side bar material corresponding to a second page display by slide animation into said side bar in said first direction when entering a second room higher in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar; and

removing side bar material corresponding to said first page display from said side bar by a second slide animation in a second direction when leaving said first room in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar, and inserting by slide animation side bar material corresponding to a third page display into said side bar in said second direction when entering a third room lower in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar;

thereby providing in said side bar a visual effect of respectively moving up or down said hierarchy of rooms wherein the visual effect creates a visual impression of entering and leaving said area via a vertical sliding motion;

wherein said first slide animation and said second slide animation are elements of an aesthetic set inherited from a parent room. (Emphasis added).

As the functionality of claims 8 and 9 similarly recites the limitation of performing slide animations of side bar material without resizing the side bar, Applicants respectfully submit that Ludolph is similarly insufficient, as discussed in detail above with respect to independent claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8-9 are non-obvious over the teachings of Ludolph. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Additionally, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludolph in view of Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,065,785; hereinafter "Shaffer").

Applicants claim (in currently amended claim 10):

10. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform operations for displaying rooms from a hierarchy of rooms, each room including a page display and a corresponding side bar display, said operations comprising:

associating with each room in said hierarchy of rooms a respective access control list identifying users authorized to view said room;

displaying in said side bar of a parent room material selectively descriptive of child rooms only to which said user is authorized by access control lists for said child rooms;

removing side bar material corresponding to a first page display from said side bar via a first slide animation in a first direction when leaving a first room in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar, and inserting side bar material corresponding to a second page display into said side bar in said first direction when entering a second room higher in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar; and

removing side bar material corresponding to said first page display from said side bar via a second slide animation in a second direction when leaving said first room in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar, and inserting side bar material corresponding to a third page display into said side bar in said second direction when entering a third room lower in said hierarchy of rooms, without resizing said side bar;

thereby providing in said side bar a visual effect of respectively moving up or down said hierarchy of rooms wherein the visual effect creates a visual impression of entering and leaving said area via a vertical sliding motion;

wherein said first slide animation and said second slide animation are elements of an aesthetic set inherited from the parent room. (Emphasis added).

As the functionality of claim 10 similarly recites the limitation of performing slide animations of side bar material without resizing the side bar, Applicants respectfully submit that the further consideration of Shaffer fails to remedy (and is not even asserted to remedy) the deficiencies of the primary reference, which are discussed in detail above with respect to independent claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 10 is non-obvious over the combined teachings of Ludolph and Shaffer. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all of the outstanding objections and rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are necessitated by this response. However, in the event any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2324 for any necessary fees, referencing Attorney Docket No. 110595.00119.

The Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' attorney (@ 617-305-2143) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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